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Wednesday
September 10, 1952

Meetings this morning. At their conclusion, I had a [redacted] talk with Lafer about conditions not only in his own country of Brazil, but elsewhere in Latin America.

E., John and I lunched at the Jena. We had delicious Ravioli Caruso and Shrimps Creole.

This afternoon, there were Bank and Fund meetings which passed smoothly.

At 6:00, John and I went with Mr. Richardson of the National City Bank to see the President-Elect of Mexico, Señor Luiz Cortines.

Early this morning, E. and I took a quick tour through the San Angel district, where a great modern-architecture housing development was in progress. It was [redacted] fascinating--flat houses, with vivid gardens, [redacted] many of them with swimming pools, surrounded by high walls of lava rock. We returned via one of the oldest parts of the city, and admired the Alcarado Palace (now owned by an American--the Buick distributor in Mexico), as well as the Cortes Palace, [redacted] currently used as a police station.

Señor Cortines impressed me as a man of force and character, and he gave voice (unsolicited!) to [redacted] friendly sentiments toward the United States. He said ~~that~~ it would be the constant aim of his foreign policy to maintain close ties with us. This is the usual statement one expects, but John and I felt it was [redacted] sincere.

We went on from Cortines' to a large reception the O'Dwyers had at the Embassy in honor of John. From there, we hurried back to dine with Signor Pella of Italy. Except for ourselves and Cecilia Parker the guests were Italians. Pella inspires one with confidence, and I should

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